



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
HYDROCARBON POLLUTION REMEDIATION PROJECT
HYPREP..Remediating the Environment and Restoring Livelihoods

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BOMU MANGROVE RESTORATION: 400,000 SEEDLINGS PLANTED



Newly Planted Mangroves at Bomu Creek

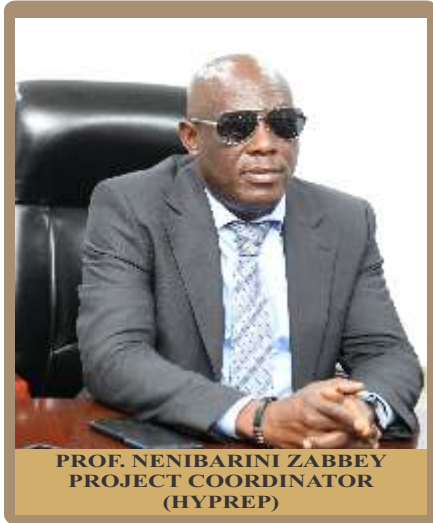
**HYPREP SEEKS COLLABORATION
WITH NGO'S FOR PROJECT DELIVERY**

**SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD: HYPREP TRAINS
YOUTHS IN BUSINESS PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT**

**HYPREP REHABILITATES MORIBUND
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**HYPREP
HERALD
NOT
TO BE
SOLD**

THE PC'S DESK



PROF. NENIBARINI ZABBEY
PROJECT COORDINATOR
(HYPREP)

July 26 is World Mangrove Day. Thus, I decided to update you on the progress of mangrove restoration in Ogoniland. In the October 2023 edition of the HYPREP Herald, we highlighted our mangrove restoration plan for Ogoniland, starting with the pilot effort at Bomu Creek. It involves assisted mangrove restoration of about 560 ha of oil-degraded mangroves in the Bomu Creek. The next phase is the large-scale mangrove restoration. Consequently, it will involve planting to recover mangroves on about 2000 ha of Ogoni shorelines, where cleanup is underway. We have also mapped new areas where direct mangrove restoration would be required.

In the same October edition, we promised the local communities would actively participate in the restoration process. I am elated to report the following inclusive actions that have occurred as planned in the intervening months. The trained mangrove vanguards are true vanguards. They used the catalytic grants, HYPREP gave them judiciously. They established mangrove nurseries of incredible sizes. Surpassing our expectations, the vanguards transferred the garnered skill to their friends and family members, who, in turn, invested in the mangrove nursery establishment. This makes seedlings of

the three species of mangroves (red, black and white) selected for planting abundantly available to the mangrove contractors. The number of seedlings in stock in Bomu and other Gokana riparian communities has created a healthy marketing competition among the “mangrove seed-prenuers.” However, to protect the local seedling suppliers (seed-prenuers) and ensure a reasonable livelihood is derived from selling mangrove seedlings to the contractors, HYPREP fixed the rate per seedling in consultation with the contractors. One of the key drivers of the explosion of mangrove nursery establishment skills in Ogoni is the launched and wide accessibility of HYPREP mangrove restoration manuals. The manuals are user-friendly. To promote regional sustainable mangrove management, which includes mangrove conservation and restoration, HYPREP also launched a report entitled “Ogoniland and the Niger Delta: Mangrove Restoration and Conservation Strategy.”

Recall that we consulted key stakeholders in the mangrove value chain during the planning stage to understand and integrate their expectations into the mangrove rehabilitation project. We also conducted a four-month pre-restoration fish stock assessment of some tidal flats designated for mangrove restoration. The baseline data from the surveys shall be referenced to enable quantifying how the restored mangroves contribute to enhancing fisheries. Thus, the pilot mangrove restoration in Ogoniland started well. It is ecologically sound and locally owned. It is undertaken by enthusiastic community workers who have been trained and certified. So far, approximately 400,000 mangrove seedlings have been planted on 23 grids in Bomu Creek. The planting is going well, and the completion target dates will be met. With a planting distance of 1.3 m between stands in a zig-zag

fashion, an estimated 3.3m seedlings will be planted. HYPREP has commenced one month of post-planting monitoring of the earliest planted grids. Monitoring plots shall be created by the third month, and some of the mangroves within the plots will be tagged for continuous monitoring of their growth performance.

We are impressed and encouraged by the supportive interest of stakeholders. In the week of World Environment Day commemoration, we recorded incredible collaborative action in the field. On 1st June, the executive and members of the Nigerian Environmental Society (NES), Rivers State Chapter, joined my team on a solidarity mangrove planting field trip to Bomu Creek. On June 5, members of the Green Frontiers, the environmental clubs HYPREP had established and continue to support in Ogoniland, and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) joined us to mark World Environment Day with “citizens action for nature.” Specifically, we undertook a mangrove plastic cleanup in Bomu Creek. We removed plastic bags stuck at the base of mangrove saplings. The saplings were nursed by a local but could not be transplanted because the market for the seedlings did not exist at the time. Consequently, the seedlings are overgrown to become saplings with prop roots firmly anchored in the sediment. At the sapling stage, transplanting is technically impossible. So, together with 'nature's citizens,' we removed the basal plastics from the saplings. This scenario of creating one problem (plastic pollution) while attempting to solve another problem (restoring mangroves) must be avoided. We are mindful of the leadership role of HYPREP in developing a sustainable template for mangrove restoration in Ogoniland that will be replicated throughout Nigeria and beyond. We are determined to change the paradigm. Thus, we have partnered with a Dutch company to find a sustainable solution to prevent

plastic pollution in the creeks during mangrove restoration. We shall launch the solution on July 26, the World Mangrove Day. Hopefully, the anticipated outcome of the method and the mainstreaming of the technique will end the use of single-use plastics for mangrove nurseries in the Niger Delta.

There are compelling results that our goal of leaving behind in Ogoni a legacy of the science and art of mangrove restoration

will be achieved. We are grateful to stakeholders for their support in restoring mangroves in Ogoniland. We are especially thankful to the mangrove vanguards who propagated the skill of mangrove nurseries in the Ogoni communities. Their resilience, advocacy, and go-getting fortify our restoration hope. Kudos to the community workers assisting the nine contractors in planting and tendering the mangrove seedlings in

the field. We appreciate the interest in the Ogoni cleanup by the CSOs and professional bodies, such as the NES, even as we count on their sustained support and collaboration. On behalf of my HYPREP colleagues, particularly the mangrove restoration team, I wish you an eventful and successful World Mangrove Day 2024!

In this Issue

The speed of delivery of the mangrove restoration programme of HYPREP has in the last six months gained tremendous momentum to the extent that as of today, the Bomu pilot planting has recorded a total of four hundred thousand seedlings being transplanted. It is a success story of great impact on the environment especially in an area that once suffered from widespread crude oil pollution. The Bomu creek is gradually being restored to deliver mangrove goods and services to the immediate community and Ogoni as a whole. The report is the lead story for this edition of the HYPREP Herald.

The July edition is replete with related reports on the mangrove restoration efforts of the project. To ensure a hitch free mangrove restoration operation, the Management of HYPREP held a performance review meeting with contractors and regulators with a view to smoothen any rough edge there may be in the process of carrying out the restorative work. HYPREP is also extending the partnership for a successful mangrove restoration programme to relevant Non-Governmental Organizations to seek inputs from them. Some of the organizations were taken on a visit to Bomu where they joined in symbolic planting of nursed mangrove seedlings. The event was also in the lineup of

activities to mark the 2024 World Environment Day Celebration. The World Environment Day proper was marked with the involvement of secondary school students where the HYPREP environment clubs exist to foster in the young minds the need to protect the environment. The Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey had used the occasion to announce plans by the project to seek carbon credits for Ogoni communities for their wellbeing and development.

The construction of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration is progressing and in early preparation for the curriculum development for the centre, the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Zabbey inaugurated a 13-man my committee, chaired by a former Vice Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt, Prof. Don Baridam to carry out the herculean task. The membership of the committee is made up of accomplished scholars, former Vice Chancellors, University dons and seasoned administrators. They have six months to complete their assignment.

The Ogoni clean-up project is a community target project and in line with the principle of accountability, the Management of HYPREP had called Ogoni elites and traditional rulers to a stakeholder meeting to brief them on the operations and achievements of the project within the period under review.

The event is reported in this edition of the HYPREP Herald.

The Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Zabbey was among participants at the 2024 Hybrid Conference of the Ecological Society of Nigeria (ECOSON) Abraka Delta State, where he made a case for the preservation of the wetlands of the Niger Delta.

HYPREP continues to empower Ogoni youths through its livelihood training programme in line with the recommendation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report to provide sustainable alternative means of livelihood for communities whose sources of income were affected by oil pollution. The latest is the Business Proposal Development training for undergraduates, graduates and young entrepreneurs from Ogoni. The workshop afforded another opportunity for persons who were not captured in the last training. Members of the HYPREP clubs in schools in Ogoni were taken on an excursion to project sites to give them first-hand information on the operations of HYPREP.

We have our poetry corner maintained for you to make you appreciate the environment better with the view to elicit positive action from you for its preservation. We will welcome your feedback and do hope that you will go through the pages to keep yourself abreast of our activities.

Project News

BOMU MANGROVE RESTORATION: 400,000 SEEDLINGS PLANTED

The on-going clean-up of Ogoniland as recommended in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report being implemented by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), is progressing on all fronts. From core remediation of polluted soil and ground water through livelihood trainings, shoreline clean-up and mangrove restoration, provision of potable water to construction of legacy projects (Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, Ogoni Power Project, Ogoni Specialist Hospital, Buan Cottage Hospital), the clean-up project is achieving on its mandate.

In this special report, we showcase the progress of work in the phase 1 mangrove restoration project going on at Bomu in Gokana Local Government Area. The Bomu project is the first that will lead to the phase 2 where damaged mangroves of more shoreline communities of B-Dere, K-Dere, Kpor and Goi will be restored.

The mangrove restoration has started and the following activities have been carried out ranging from establishment of mangrove nurseries, setting of offices at base camp, pre-mob exercise, induction of workers, practical training in transplanting and nursing techniques; pre-planting and planting activities to inspection and monitoring of planted seedlings.

DETAIL OF ACTIVITIES

1. Mangrove Nurseries: Prior to contractors' mobilization to site, community Youths and Women (now known as Mangrove Vanguard) were trained in

techniques of mangrove nursery establishment. These Vanguard raised mangrove nurseries and now supply seedlings to the contractors. More than 2 million mangrove seedlings were raised for transplanting by contractors (Plate 1).



PLATE 1. MANGROVE NURSERY RAISED BY VANGUARDS

1. **Setting up of Offices at Base Camp.** All mangrove contractors have brought in their porta cabins to the mangrove base camp.
2. **Pre-mob Status** All the nine mangrove contractors have concluded their pre-mob activities (Table 1).

Table 1: Pre-mob Status

Name of Contractor	LOT Number	Pre-mob Status
Panda Giant Developers Ltd	MRP 01	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2C'S Project Limited	MRP 02	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fabseg Resources Nigeria Limited	MRP 03	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Basic Nigeria Technology Limited	MRP 04	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
A&T HDPE Liner Containment Ltd	MRP 05	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Goldstream Investment Limited	MRP 06	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nielson Nigeria Limited	MRP 07	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tedcorp Limited	MRP 08	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Abduganas Limited	MRP 09	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Indicates activity or task has been done

Indicates activity or task has not been done

3. **Workers Induction Status:** All the nine mangrove contractors have inducted their community workers (Table 2, Plate 2). Some of the inductions were done in the presence of some stakeholders such as Mangrove Restoration Team and HSE teams of HYPREP, NOSDRA and Rivers State Ministry of Environment.

Table 2: Workers Induction Status

Name of Contractor	LOT Number	Induction Status
Panda Giant Developers Ltd	MRP 01	☒
2C’S Project Limited	MRP 02	☒
Fabseg Resources Nigeria Limited	MRP 03	☒
Basic Nigeria Technology Limited	MRP 04	☒
A&T HDPE Liner Containment Ltd	MRP 05	☒
Goldstream Investment Limited	MRP 06	☒
Nielson Nigeria Limited	MRP 07	☒
Tedcorp Limited	MRP 08	☒
Abduganas Limited	MRP 09	☒



Plate 3 a: Abduganas Ltd Workers Removing Nipa Palm from their Grid



Plate 2a: Abduganas Induction of Community Corkers

4. **Mobilization to Planting Sites.** All the nine mangrove contractors (Table 3) have mobilized to their planting sites, carrying out various pre-planting and planting activities, including removing Nipa palm, tilling the soil, breaking algal mats, and relocating mangrove nurseries on their grids (Plate 3).

Table 3: Contractors that have Mobilized to Site

Name of Contractor	LOT Number	Planting Site
Panda Giant Developers Ltd	MRP 01	☒
2C’SProject Limited	MRP 02	☒
Fabseg Resources Nigeria Limited	MRP 03	☒
Basic Nigeria Technology Limited	MRP 04	☒
A&T HDPE Liner Containment Ltd	MRP 05	☒
Goldstream Investment Limited	MRP 06	☒
Nielson Nigeria Limited	MRP07	☒
Tedcorp Limited	MRP 08	☒
Abduganas Limited	MRP 09	☒



Plate 2b: A & T Induction of Community Workers



Plate 2c: Fabseg Induction of Community Workers

5. **Demonstration of Mangrove transplanting and Nursing techniques.** Hand-on practical demonstration exercise has been done by the Mangrove Team of HYPREP headed by Professor Franklin Tanee (Subject Expert on Mangrove) as the lead facilitator and supported by Uche Izuchukwu and Suka Nwibubasa. Shell representative witnessed one of the trainings.



Plate 2d: Nielson Induction of Community Workers

6. **Mangrove Planting:** All the Nine contractors have commenced planting. They have planted a total of 400,000 mangrove seedlings (consisting of all three species of mangroves) in 21 grids of their Lots (Table 5 and Plate

Table 5: Summary of Total Mangrove Planted by Contractors

Red	Black	White	Total
299,189	53,571	47,240	400,000



Plate 4a: Transplanting Training for Abduganas Ltd Community Workers

7. **Monitoring of Seedlings One Month after Planting.** The contractors have completed the planting in 21 grids out of 123 grids spread in the 9 lots. Ten of the 21 completed grids have undergone inspection, verification and monitoring by both the HYPREP Team, regulatory bodies (Shell, NOSDRA, Rivers State Ministry of Environment, etc) and other stakeholders (NGOs, community representative, etc).



Plate 5a: Nielsen Ltd Workers Planting Mangrove Seedlings on a Grid in their Lot.

MANGROVE RESTORATION: HYPREP/REGULATORS HOLD PERFORMANCE REVIEW MEETING

The Management of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has stated that it will continue to engage stakeholders in the implementation of the various projects it is working on to improve the life of the Ogoni people and their environment.

Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey stated this at a Project Performance Review Meeting with mangrove contractors and regulators of the project.

Professor Zabbey who was represented at the meeting by the Acting Director, Technical Services/Head, Environmental Remediation Unit, HYPREP, Raphael Saue said the mangrove restoration project is implemented bearing in mind the tenets of quality, timeliness and cost effectiveness.

“I bring you warm greetings from our amiable Project Coordinator, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey, who is unavoidably absent on other assignments. You are welcome to the first edition of this monthly event for this project activity - the mangrove restoration contract. As it goes, we know the project has too many activities going on simultaneously and it is the desire of the Federal Government of Nigeria from the Presidency to the Ministry of Environment that everything we are



Mangrove Seedlings in Nursery

doing is done in line with quality, timeliness and cost effectiveness that will meet up with the use of resources in sustainable manner. So, we have personnel in the office, we have consultants on the project.”

Saue reiterated the commitment of the Project Coordinator, Professor Zabbey to a wholistic implementation of the Ogoni clean-up so that the environment can meet the needs of the next generation.

“The contractors here who are planting the mangroves are doing largely part of what the next generation is expected to gain from in larger perspectives than other activities that we have. So, whatever we are doing with this set of contractors, we can also understand from the body language of our Project Coordinator that we don't play with

that. So, we have that very serious urge to make sure that this mandate that we have been given by the Federal Government with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme, our regulators, civil society observer groups and SPDC that is providing a large chunk of the fund and other advisory bodies that are linked with the project. We have to ensure that we don't fail, we have to ensure that we succeed.”

Head, Oil Spill Cleanup and Remediation Unit in the Rivers State Ministry of Environment, Dr. Moses O. Bereiweriso is impressed that the mangrove restoration project has progressed to the planting stage.

“When I received this email for this meeting, I recalled some of the reports we saw on the platform, and I asked a question, and I was so much impressed

by the report. The first question I asked is, why are you planting when you have not done the cleanup of what we are doing and the report was, we are planting where is not polluted. I am so happy to see that something like that is happening to bring back our mangrove forest where we get some of the things, we use in our daily lives, in fact, a source of protein. So, the Rivers State Ministry of Environment is pleased that this is taking place and I know that with time this will spread to other areas in Ogoniland.”

Similarly, the Coordinator, Centre for Environment, Human Rights and Development (CEHRD),

Dr. Nabie Nubari commended the Management of HYPREP on deeming it fit to engage stakeholders with the aim of charting the way forward for the mangrove restoration exercise.

“Let me thank HYPREP for this wonderful platform of interaction and I am glad because review meetings bring to mind the importance of the subject matter itself. Now, CEHRD having been in the forefront of mangrove restoration process and campaign and of course the length and breadth of the Niger Delta, we are so delighted in a time like this that HYPREP has seen the need to bring stakeholders together and I believe so

strongly that whatever we shall hear thereafter from the contractors will add to whatever anyone is doing and together I think the Niger Delta environment or the Ogoni environment will have a better beginning from here.

Dr. Nubari's view was equally shared by Mrs. Grace Mfon who represented the Head of NOSDRA Reference Laboratory, Dr. Ken Aroh at the event. At the meeting were representatives of companies handling the HYPREP mangrove restoration project, the Shell Petroleum Development Company, SPDC.

HYPREP REHABILITATES MORIBUND WATER PROJECT IN BMGS, BORI

The Principal of Birabi Memorial Grammar School (BMGS), Bori, Barrister Bob Agbozi has expressed gratitude to the Honourable Minister of State for Environment, Dr. Ishaq Salako, for the fulfillment of his promise to reactivate the moribund water project in the school. The rehabilitation of the water scheme was carried out by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP).

Barr. Agbozi recalled that before the reactivation of the water project, the students could barely afford bottled or sachet water because several of them came from not-so buoyant households. The staff and corps members were also not excluded from the hardship posed by non-availability of good water for drinking and household maintenance.

He stated that with the rehabilitation of the water project equipped with solar powered pump supplies water to the school and households within the vicinity of the school are so happy about the development as the taps now



BMGS Principal, Barr. Bob Agbozi (L) Showing HYPREP Herald Editor, Kpoobari Nafu (R) the Water Project

run on campus.

BMGS, Bori is one of the schools in Ogoniland that has felt the impact of HYPREP, with the school winning a whopping one million naira prize at the maiden edition of the environment club quiz competition organized by the Livelihood Unit of HYPREP. The school also played host to the Honorable Minister of State for Environment for a tree planting exercise in the school.

Barr. Agbozi attributed these wins to the ingenuity and hard work of the teachers and students, stating that BMGS is the leading school in the senatorial district and emphasized that anything done for BMGS was a service to Ogoni and the neighbouring

Local Government Areas, adding that he would continue to support the HYPREP project. When asked about the impact of the environment club on the students and how they respond to issues of the environment, he pointed out that the students, under the supervision of the teachers, are keen on environmental upkeep and sanitation.

One of the students and a member of the environmental club, Koalebari Nathaniel Koalebari expressed his appreciation to HYPREP for intervening in the water situation in the school, stating that the water has proved useful for drinking, watering the school gardens and general sanitation.

HYPREP SEEKS COLLABORATION WITH NGO FOR PROJECT DELIVERY

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) is seeking greater collaboration and sustained partnership with key stakeholders like the Nigerian Environmental Society (NES) and the Centre for Development Support Initiative (CEDSI) to develop sustainable framework for the management of the environment in Ogoniland.

The Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey gave the indication at separate meetings he had with the organizations during their visits to the Project Coordination Office.

While presenting to the guests three recently released reports by HYPREP viz: Ogoni and the Niger Delta: Mangrove Restoration and Conservation Strategy, Mangrove in the Niger Delta Restoration Manual and Niger Delta Mangrove Restoration: Brief Field Guide, Professor Zabbey stressed that HYPREP is providing leadership and opportunities for mangrove restoration in Nigeria, which among other benefits will make the country regain its position as the fourth largest mangrove ecosystem in the world.

Professor Zabbey added that HYPREP is adopting a more sustainable mangrove management system which includes driving communities to take the lead as volunteers in conservation and restoration efforts, noting that the Project, in commemoration of this year's World Environment Day, will organize the "HYPREP Day for Citizens Action", working with the Project's Environment Club to remove plastics from the creek of Bomu in



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey with Members of Civil Society Organisations at Bomu Creek

Gokana Local Government Area.

The Chairman, NES, Sir Daminabo Amos Atuboyedia and the Executive Director, CEDSI, Dr. Mina Ogbanga, both commended Professor Zabbey on his commitment to the implementation of the Ogoni clean-up project and indicated their readiness to partner the Project in actualizing its

mandate especially in knowledge sharing and human capital development.

High points of the meetings were the presentations of the NES calendar and an award by CEDSI to the HYPREP Project Coordinator in recognition of his achievements in his first year in office.

HYPREP SEEKS CARBON CREDITS FOR OGOINI COMMUNITIES

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project, HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has disclosed that plans are underway to make Ogoni communities have access to carbon credits as a way of empowering them in the current effort at restoring lost mangroves in Ogoniland under the HYPREP clean-up of hydrocarbon impacted sites.

Professor Zabbey made the disclosure during the planting of mangrove seedlings at Bomu in Gokana Local Government Area in a joint action for

nature in partnership with the Nigerian Environmental Society as part of activities to mark the 2024 World Environment Day.

He said the initiative will enable concerned Ogoni communities to sell carbon credits from reforestation and mangrove restoration efforts to companies or governments seeking to offset their emissions; and also access international funding and support for sustainable livelihoods.

“What HYPREP will do is link communities like these to carbon credits, because since mangroves



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey Planting Mangrove Seedling at Bomu to Mark 2024 World Environment Day

sequester a lot of carbon, they can sell the credit, to encourage more communities to protect the restored mangroves, we want to link them to carbon credits so they can be motivated.

“We are doing approximately 2000 hectares of shoreline clean-up and 560 hectares of pilot mangrove restoration, so like in Bomu here, there are areas where 10 contractors are flushing to reduce the level of oiling to enable us to plant mangroves.”

The HYPREP Project Coordinator explained that the mangrove restoration project is helping to build the capacity of Ogoni people in carbon project development and monitoring, especially in mangrove restoration

and preservation.

“Mangrove restoration is important for our country because it is a nature-based solution to climate change. Mangroves are among the best carbon sinks; they sequester carbon five times more than the tropical rainforest. So, in partnership with the Nigerian Environmental Society, we came to Bomu where HYPREP is restoring five hundred and sixty (560) hectares of former mangrove areas to carry out a joint action for nature. HYPREP is providing leadership in mangrove restoration, and we are providing a manual that will guide sustainable mangrove restoration in the Niger Delta, Nigeria, and even for countries along the coast of West Africa.

The community people are taking the lead in this mangrove restoration while HYPREP is behind the scenes, so the communities are taking ownership of the project. They have been trained in how to plant and monitor mangrove nurseries because they are the ones supplying mangrove seedlings to the contractors and this contributes to their livelihoods significantly.”

Chairman of the Nigerian Environmental Society in Rivers State, Sir Amos Daminabo Atuboyedia spoke on the importance of the theme for the 2024 World Environment Day celebration, “*land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience.*”

“Our theme of this activity is mangrove planting, restoring the degraded land with mangroves. Since we don't have the issue of desertification and drought in Rivers State, but environmental degradation from oil spills, so we are partnering with HYPREP to plant mangroves since they are already on ground in Ogoni, so we can have it on record that we were part of this project.”

HYPREP is currently cleaning oil polluted shorelines in coastal communities in Gokana Local Government Area of Ogoniland.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY: STUDENTS CLEAN BOMU CREEK OF PLASTICS

In commemoration of the World Environment Day, 2024, the Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has led members of the HYPREP Environment Clubs on a plastic clean-up exercise at Bomu creek in Gokana Local Government

Area as a way of conscientizing them on the imperative of a clean and safe environment.

Professor Zabbey stated that instilling a sense of environmental responsibility into the students will equip them with the necessary skills and character to watch over the environment in the long run.

“The theme for this year's world environment day is land restoration, desertification and drought resilience. Today's climax event is a citizen's action, and we are partnering with members of the environment clubs that we established in Secondary Schools in Ogoniland to do a mangrove plastic cleanup. Somebody



Students Picking Plastics from Mangroves to Mark 2024 World Environment Day

from this community set up a mangrove nursery here more than two years ago, hoping to sell the seedlings to support the mangrove restoration efforts at Bodo. Incidentally, he could not sell the mangrove seedlings and they grew to become saplings and saplings cannot be transplanted because they have already formed prop roots and prop roots are already anchored in the sediments.

The presence of plastics at the base of the mangroves is not only unsightly but poses a threat to biodiversity. Today, we have come to clean up the plastics from the base of the mangroves so that the mangroves can grow well. The essence of mangrove restoration is to recover biodiversity and the presence of plastics affect the process of recovery. Our effort today is symbolic and very strategic.”

Zabbey reiterated that HYPREP's effort in environmental remediation relies strongly on community involvement to ensure sustainability. This, he said, begged the need to build

a community of vanguards who would take part in restoration and monitoring of the growth performance of the mangroves, even after the departure of HYPREP from Ogoniland.

“Apart from cleaning the plastics, we are also creating an emotional attachment between the students and the mangroves. We have explained to them the different kinds of mangrove in this ecosystem and we have also explained to them relationship between the animals and plants. Now, because the students are directly involved in our restoration efforts, they would be the ones to monitor the growth performance of the mangroves, generate data and also protect the restored mangrove ecosystem. Restoration requires community buy-in and citizens' support. Every citizen needs to take action to protect biodiversity and to restore the degraded environment. Community science is about using non-science citizens to generate scientific data and protect

biodiversity.”

He further assured the Ogoni people that HYPREP will deliver sustainable mangrove restoration, shoreline cleanup and land remediation in Ogoniland and pledged the continuous commitment of HYPREP to supporting the communities not just by building their skills in mangrove restoration but also by creating direct employment for the women and youths who are engaged to undertake mangrove restoration and providing them with legacy knowledge materials like the manuals that have been launched on mangrove restoration. All these, he said, are means of incentivizing their protection of the ecosystem.

Present at the event were officials of the Stakeholder Democracy Network (SDN), Centre for Environment, Human Rights and Development (CEHRD), Nigerian Center for Development and Support Initiative (CEDSI) and the Society for Women and Youths Affairs (SWAYA).

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD: HYPREP TRAINS YOUTHS IN BUSINESS PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT

In keeping with its commitment to empowering the youths of Ogoniland through alternative livelihood trainings, the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), has organized a three-day workshop on 'Business Proposal Development' for some Ogoni graduates and undergraduates to equip them with the knowledge needed for them to flourish in business.

Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey who declared the workshop open, expressed confidence in the immense potentials of Ogoni youths and assured that the Project will continue to provide them with the necessary tools and skills needed for them to advance in their career.

He urged them to make good use of the project's human capital development programmes which are aimed at providing sustainable alternative livelihoods for them, better positioning them for the demands of a highly competitive society, as well as contributing to the broader development of Ogoniland and the nation in general.

“We at HYPREP believe in the immense potential of the Ogoni youth. Our vision is to provide you with the necessary tools, knowledge, and skills to turn that potential into real opportunities for your advancement. Today's workshop is designed to do just that by equipping you with practical knowledge on writing various proposals, sourcing funds, and obtaining scholarships for further studies and investments.”

While urging the participants to see the workshop as one that will help



Participants at the Business Proposal Development Workshop

them develop skills for writing compelling proposals, Prof. Zabbey stated that the workshop will help translate their business ideas into reality and noted that in today's competitive world, the ability to write a rich proposal can open many doors. In his words:

“It is important to note that whether you are seeking to fund a startup, a community project, or your education, the power of a well-crafted proposal cannot be overstated; a good proposal is a bridge between your innovative ideas and the resources needed to bring them to life.”

The HYPREP helmsman who reiterated the commitment of his administration to supporting the youths of Ogoni in achieving their goals, answering their questions, and providing the needed guidance and encouraged them to fully engage with the workshop and be positive in their pursuit of personal goals.

He charged participants to become ambassadors of the Ogoni Clean-up Project by promoting peace and environmental stewardship.

“May I also call on you to be worthy ambassadors of the Ogoni cleanup. Stand up against vandalism and theft of HYPREP facilities in Ogoniland. Preach the message of peace and embrace civic education and environmental stewardship.”

The workshop covered key areas including, Understanding the Essential of Business Proposals, Grant Writing Techniques, Sourcing, Accessing Funds, Effective Strategies for Scholarship Applications, and Practical Sessions.

Participants at the workshop commended the Project Coordinator on prioritizing youth development and inclusivity in the HYPREP Project.

In less than two months, HYPREP has organized strategic human capacity development and sustainable alternative livelihood programmes targeting Ogoni youths in a bid to position them for the demands of a highly competitive society.

HYPREP INAUGURATES TECHNICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project, HYPREP, has inaugurated a Technical Planning Committee to plan and design the operational framework for the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, CEER, as well as advise on the core curriculum framework for the Centre.

The Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof Nenibarini Zabbey who inaugurated the Technical Planning Committee, said the CEER which occupies 29 hectares of land in Wiiyaakara-Bori, is at 53 percent completion and will be a rallying point for environmental remediation knowledge.

The 13-man Committee is headed by a former Vice Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt, Professor Don Baridam, Ndowa Lale, Prof. Joseph Ajienka, Prof. Chidi Ibe, Prof. Ibby Kakulu and Prof. Roselyn Konya. Others are Prof. Ben Naanen, Prof. Desmond Nbeta, Dr. Evidence Ep-aabari, Prof. Barineme Fakae, Gbene Joi Nunieh, Prof. Nwaichi

Eucharia, and Prof. Ibisime Etela as Secretary.

Prof. Zabbey said the Centre will bring together a cohort of expert knowledge in Environmental Science and other Socio-economic sciences to safeguard the environment and the people's livelihoods.

“By developing innovative, cost-effective, and sustainable technologies and solutions that reduce the impact of pollutants on the environment, the CEER will serve as a focal point for knowledge management, with the overall goal being the ability to capture new knowledge and standardize scientific processes and deploy best practices from inside and outside of the business area.”

He stated that the Technical Planning Committee's work remains fundamental in turning the CEER vision into reality and charged the Committee to bear in mind the expectations of the Ogoni people for the Project and called on them to approach the task with diligence,

creativity, and collaboration.

“Over the next six months, you are tasked with an essential mission: to meticulously plan and design the operational framework of the Centre, ensuring that it is equipped to meet the highest standards of excellence and effectiveness with international linkages and partnerships. The committee will also advise on the core curricula framework of the CEER. Your report and recommendations, which will be submitted to the Governing Council of HYPREP for consideration upon completion of your work, would serve as the foundational blueprint for the operationalization of the Centre, guiding its structure, focus areas, strategic direction, and sustainability. In carrying out this important task, we must keep in mind the expectations of the Ogoni community. To the community, establishing this Centre is not just a scientific or academic endeavour; it is seen as a community-centric initiative for local job creation, knowledge acquisition, and



Some Members of the Technical Committee with HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey

development. This is why the centre has a faculty of vocational skills acquisition.”

Chairman of the Technical Planning Committee, Prof. Don Baridam, who was represented by a member of the Committee, Prof. Barineme Faka, expressed optimism that the Centre would be a legacy project.

“The Centre of Excellence for Environmental Remediation is one of

the recommendations of UNEP. It is actually a legacy project that even at the expiration of what we're doing, that Centre will stand as a testimony for the work that has been done, and because of that, it is a tall order for the Committee to perform and to advise in those areas.

“On behalf of the Chairman, we also bring our commitment to say, that since you (HYPREP) have challenged

us to perform, with the help of God, we hope the Committee will deliver within the time and we hope that our advice will make this centre the legacy project.”

The flag-off of the construction of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration was performed last year by former President Muhammadu Buhari.

HYPREP HOLDS PROJECT REVIEW MEETING WITH Ogoni STAKEHOLDERS

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has commended stakeholders of the project from Ogoni on their continued support and active participation in the HYPREP project.

Professor Zabbey gave the commendation at a Project Review Meeting he presided over on behalf of the Honourable Minister of Environment and Chairman of the Governing Council of HYPREP, Balarabe Abbas Lawal to update stakeholders on ongoing projects, review activities comprehensively, and gather valuable feedback to enhance the success of HYPREP's operations.

He emphasized that the meeting was held to discuss the success of HYPREP and critically evaluate the areas that call for improvement and encouraged them to share their feedback as their opinions are valuable to the overall success of HYPREP.

“Over the past months, HYPREP has made notable strides in various facets of the project implementation process. The land and shoreline remediation project is ongoing, and preliminary assessment of the complex sites has



Cross Section of Participants at the Stakeholders' Meeting

commenced. The pilot mangrove restoration of over 500 hectares of oil-degraded mangroves is going well. Last week, we launched three reports to provide technical guidance for sustainable mangrove restoration and conservation in Nigeria. Alongside this, the construction of Ogoni Specialist Hospital and the Buan Cottage Hospital is underway, and we have strengthened four existing hospitals in Ogoniland with valuable equipment. These facilities are poised to provide state-of-the-art healthcare services. In addition to healthcare and environmental initiatives, we are making strides in infrastructure and vocational training. The construction

of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration is 53% completed. The Ogoni Power Project is progressing as planned. It would connect households and businesses in Ogoni to the national electricity grid, thereby boosting local economic growth and improving quality of life.” He also spoke on the progress of the livelihood empowerment projects HYPREP has embarked on which includes vocational trainings, water projects and workshops on business strategy and reiterated the importance of their feedback and insights which, he said, would surely encourage HYPREP in the attainment of set goals.

“Our commitment to empowering the Ogoni population is further evidenced by training 5,000 people in various vocational skills. This initiative equips the youths and women with valuable skills and fosters self-reliance and economic independence. Simultaneously, the construction of Phase 2 water facilities is nearing completion in some lots and will be commissioned soon. Six commissioned water schemes continue to supply potable water to 16 Ogoni communities. HYPREP's efforts extend beyond physical infrastructure. We undertake strategic capacity building and community engagement. We recently conducted a successful procurement and business strategy workshop, the Career and Employability Workshop, to enhance entrepreneurial skills. Over 7,000 Ogoni youths and women are employed in the various projects.”

“The path to environmental recovery, livelihood restoration, and sustainability is intricate and requires continuous monitoring, evaluation, and adaptation. Therefore, this is one of the platforms for dialogue where your voices are heard, your concerns are addressed, and your suggestions are incorporated into our future work plan. As we proceed with this activity, our primary objective is to listen to your feedback, understand your concerns, and collaboratively seek solutions to enhance our project implementation strategy. Your insights and experiences are invaluable to us as they energize us to achieve the goals of HYPREP.”

Professor Zabbey acknowledged the various community-related challenges encountered in the discharge of the project's activities and regretted that those challenges slowed down the pace of work. He urged the

parties involved to come together and amicably resolve these issues to ensure the seamless delivery of HYPREP activities for the benefit of the Ogoni people.

“We must acknowledge that, despite our sustained efforts, several community-related challenges continue to affect the smooth progression of our work. Undue interference in contract administration poses a significant threat to the integrity and efficiency of our operations. Additionally, unresolved inter and intra communal land disputes have proven to be a substantial obstacle. These conflicts delay our work. Furthermore, other challenges require our collective attention and action. Issues include deliberate restriction of access to project sites (we have had cases of stakeholders erecting barriers around contaminated sites, obtaining court injunctions, misinformation, and deploying diabolic objects to restrict access to sites over matters that could be resolved by simply approaching the office. The truth is that we must work hand in hand while promoting a culture of mutual respect, collaboration, and accountability.”

“We must unite as Ogoni people and stand firm against any actions or influences that seek to derail the progress of HYPREP. Your vigilance and resolve are crucial in safeguarding the sanctity of the Ogoni clean-up. Hence, we must engage the HYPREP Project Coordination Office proactively and collaboratively rather than resorting to confrontation as a first line of action. Actions such as avoidable court cases drain your resources, energy, time, and the collective resources that would be better utilized for the Project. I therefore urge all parties involved to

come together in the spirit of dialogue and reconciliation. By resolving these disputes amicably and swiftly, you ensure that the remediation work, construction projects, and other activities of HYPREP proceed seamlessly to the benefit of all Ogonis. I want to reaffirm that HYPREP is a neutral party, and our focus is to achieve project mandates only and not to determine land ownership. HYPREP was established with a clear mandate: to restore the environmental health of Ogoniland and improve the quality of life for its residents through the restoration of livelihoods, provision of potable water, and peacebuilding in line with the recommendations of the UNEP Assessment Report on Ogoni land as well as the official gazette establishing HYPREP.”

The HYPREP Project Coordinator announced that as part of peacebuilding efforts, HYPREP plans to conduct training sessions for traditional rulers and other key stakeholders in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and peacebuilding techniques soon. The purpose of these sessions, he said, is to enhance the capacity of individuals to address emerging issues at the community level in a manner that aligns with the Project's objectives.

He further reiterated the commitment of the Federal Government through HYPREP, to expedite the implementation of the recommendations outlined in the UNEP Assessment Report on Ogoniland even as this commitment encompasses various tasks, including the completion of ongoing projects, remediation of complex sites, consistent and transparent community engagement, and the provision of tangible benefits to enhance the daily

lives of the residents.

Prof. Zabbey affirmed that HYPREP is dedicated to fulfilling its responsibilities and emphasized the importance of engaging with the project in alignment with set objectives while supporting genuine efforts directed towards their achievement. To this end, he stated that the Ogoni community must provide a thriving environment for HYPREP to carry out its duties. In his words,

“The Ogoni community must create an environment enabling HYPREP's work to proceed smoothly. This means promoting open communication, addressing grievances through dialogue, discouraging targeted misinformation, and ensuring community actions are guided by a collective vision of progress and sustainability. We must move forward as partners. Therefore, it is time for us to review our actions as stakeholders critically and constructively. I want to reassure you that the Project Coordination Office, under my leadership, will continue to listen to you and devise better strategies to ensure the timely completion of projects. I urge each of you to reaffirm your support for the success of the Project. Let us unite in our resolve to overcome challenges, to protect our land from further degradation through re-pollution occasioned by artisanal oil refining, and to secure a healthier environment and a more prosperous future for our people.”

He called for an open and constructive dialogue including collective efforts to identify existing gaps and innovate practical solutions that benefit all stakeholders. “As key stakeholders and leaders of various interest groups, we must continue to engage with HYPREP positively, prioritize unity

over division, community benefit over self-interest, and work together to realize a cleaner, healthier, and prosperous Ogoniland. The journey may be challenging, but we can achieve the transformative change that the Ogoni people deserve with unity and determination.”

Presentations were made on the progress status of the thematic areas of HYPREP which includes livelihood, remediation, potable water, Centre of Excellence, public health, and power.

As requested, the stakeholders did not hold back on their insights, suggestions and criticisms of the project activities. The interaction raised concerns on issues of education, the HYPREP water and power projects, sustainability measures for

trained Ogoni women and youths and gender inclusion. They also suggested adequate monitoring and evaluation to ensure the youths apply the training and empowerment they receive to make a living for themselves. Furthermore, the stakeholders suggested continued advocacy and interactions with the Ogoni people to discourage youths from engaging in illegal activities that would negate the remediation efforts of HYPREP.

Prof. Zabbey thanked the guests for a successful meeting and assured them that their feedback had been properly noted and the suggestions that required escalation would be escalated, reiterating his commitment to working with the communities to deliver on the mandate of HYPREP.

GROUP HONOURS PROF. ZABBEY FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AS PROJECT COORDINATOR, HYPREP

Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has said his commitment towards the actualization of the Project's mandate is borne out of meeting stakeholders' expectations and ensuring that the Ogoni people get the best of the Clean-up Project.

Professor Zabbey made the disclosure when he received an Award of Excellence for his landmark achievements from the Golden Friends Organization 91-(GFO-91), Bodo City in Gokana Local

Government Area, who were on a courtesy visit to the Project Coordination Office.

The Project Coordinator who is a member and former President of the organization, promised to be a worthy ambassador and stay consistent in his task of delivering on the mandate of HYPREP.

President of the group, Hon. Emmanuel Putonor, commended Professor Zabbey on his achievements since assumption of office and assured him of the group's support for the Project.



Members of Golden Friends Organisation 91 Pose with HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey

PROF. ZABBEY MAKES CASE FOR PRESERVATION OF NIGER DELTA WETLANDS

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey has emphasized the importance of the Niger Delta wetlands, particularly the mangrove ecosystems, in achieving biodiversity conservation and supporting human livelihoods for sustainable development.

Prof. Zabbey made the call in a keynote address he presented at the Ecological Society of Nigeria (ECOSON) Hybrid Conference 2024 held at the Delta State University, Abraka, Nigeria.

He highlighted the vital roles that wetlands play in an ecosystem, especially as it relates to the Niger Delta environment.

“The wetland ecosystems perform a myriad of ecological functions that are vital for both natural and human systems. These include nutrient cycling, water purification, sediment trapping, flood regulation, shoreline stabilization, and fish production functions. Mangroves are excellent breeding and nursery grounds for commercial fishes. Estimates show that 80% of global fish catch depends directly or indirectly on mangroves. Mangrove forests, with their extensive root systems, act as buffers against coastal erosion and storm surges, protecting coastal communities and infrastructure. Also, mangrove wetlands serve as important carbon sinks, sequestering 11% of terrestrial carbon and helping to mitigate climate change. The intricate network of waterways in the delta facilitates the movement of nutrients and energy, supporting the productivity of adjacent terrestrial and aquatic

ecosystems. Thus, wetlands provide invaluable ecosystem services to local communities, including fisheries, agriculture, tourism, and cultural heritage”.

Prof. Zabbey pointed out that despite their socio-ecological importance, wetlands face increasing threats from human activities - oil and gas exploration, deforestation, pollution, overexploitation of natural resources, and habitat loss are among the key anthropogenic pressures debasing the integrity of wetlands.

“Wetland ecosystems in the Niger Delta are under severe threat from anthropogenic activities. Oil pollution results in habitat degradation and biodiversity loss. Oil spills (caused by sabotage, artisanal refining, pipeline rupture, and human error) and gas flaring have polluted waterways and disrupted ecosystem functioning, leading to declines in fish stocks and degraded mangrove forests. Oil released into the environment enters the roots and leaves of mangrove trees, suffocating them and preventing oxygen exchange, which leads to their death. The toxic components of crude oil also contaminate the sediment and water, further inhibiting the growth of mangroves and disrupting the ecosystem's delicate balance. Before and after oil spill studies of benthic macrofauna in Bodo Creek revealed 81% loss of the animals three years post spills. It is important to highlight that deforestation and land conversion for agriculture, urban development, and infrastructure projects have further exacerbated wetland habitat loss and fragmentation in the Niger Delta. Pollution from domestic, industrial, and agricultural sources has

degraded water quality, posing risks to aquatic life and human health. Additionally, overexploitation of natural resources, such as overfishing and unsustainable logging, has further pressured wetland biodiversity. The infrastructure associated with oil exploration, such as roads, pipelines, drilling platforms, and road construction, fragments and disrupts mangrove habitats. Clearing mangrove forests to make way for these structures directly removes important habitats for numerous plant and animal species. It increases erosion and sedimentation, altering the delta's hydrology and leading to further habitat degradation. Additionally, the noise, pollution, and human disturbances associated with oil exploration activities can disrupt the breeding, feeding, and migration patterns of wildlife, further exacerbating the ecological impacts on mangrove ecosystems in the Niger Delta.”

To mitigate these challenges, Prof. Zabbey suggested various conservation and management strategies to safeguard wetlands. One of the major strategies he mentioned is the large-scale restoration of oil-degraded mangroves and shoreline clean-up in Ogoniland by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP).

“The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), a project of the Federal Ministry of Environment is currently undertaking the most extensive restoration programme of oil-degraded mangrove globally. In 2011, UNEP launched a classic report on the Environmental Assessment of Ogoniland, which

indicated significant oil damage to the area's shoreline, especially mangrove biodiversity and associated ecosystem services, with profound limitations on the livelihoods of the region's population. HYPREP was created by the Nigerian Government in 2016 to implement the recommendations of the UNEP report and clean up oil spills in Nigeria. HYPREP's roles include restoring Ogoniland's oil-degraded environment and livelihoods to promote peacebuilding, social security, and sustainability. As part of HYPREP's efforts to remediate the oil-contaminated shoreline and restore the mangroves, it carried out a Rapid Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) and chemistry sampling across 18 shoreline communities of Ogoniland, covering 5,876.23 ha to ascertain visual oiling in sediments and baseline concentrations. Total petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) levels of 52,842 mg/kg and 189 mg/kg, respectively, have been recorded. In the tidal flats of Bodo Creek, TPH in the class C4 – C44 before cleanup ranges between <5000 – 100,000 mg/kg. An area of 1,818.56 ha of the impacted shoreline had been delineated by HYPREP into working grids for cleanup using a controlled mechanical flushing technique. Similarly, pilot rehabilitation of 560 ha of naturally attenuated mangrove area is underway. The HYPREP mangrove restoration initiative is ecologically sound as the natural zonation pattern of the red, black, and white mangroves is mimicked. To mainstream participation and ownership of the mangrove rehabilitation process, Ogoni youths and women have been trained in mangrove restoration techniques and



provided grants to establish mangrove nurseries. We called them mangrove vanguards. The vanguards are now supplying the mangrove seedlings to the mangrove revegetation contractors. The vanguards are also involved in planting and monitoring the planted mangroves. HYPREP's Ogoniland shoreline cleanup and mangrove rehabilitation is the world's largest restoration of oil-damaged mangrove ecosystems. HYPREP has also published user-friendly manuals for mangrove restoration in the Niger Delta.”

Despite HYPREP's efforts to conserve and sustainably manage wetland ecosystems in the Niger Delta, Prof. Zabbey maintained that success will require a multi-faceted approach that addresses both ecological and socio-economic dimensions. Other sustainable management strategies he mentioned, include establishing protected areas, community-based conservation initiatives, integrated watershed management approaches, and policy reforms to promote sustainable development and environmental stewardship. Prioritizing the protection and restoration of these vital habitats, he said, can ensure the continued provision of ecosystem services, safeguard biodiversity, and promote the well-being of human

communities.

Prof. Zabbey therefore called for urgent action to conserve and sustainably manage wetland biodiversity in the Niger Delta, including the implementation of effective conservation measures, the promotion of sustainable livelihoods, and the enhancement of stakeholder participation in decision-making processes. He said,

“By safeguarding wetlands, they will continue to provide ecosystem services and conserve biodiversity for the present and future generations. Therefore, I charge members of ECOSON to provide leadership in awareness raising and local ownership of wetlands, build local capacity (citizen science) for wetland restoration and conservation, and continue to conduct cutting-edge research (combining indigenous knowledge and conventional science) on wetland biodiversity. They should evolve and test ecological theories for contextual knowledge development of wetland science and advancement of data-driven wetland policy and practice in Nigeria.”

The HYPREP mangrove restoration project is taking off from Bomu and will extend to other coastal communities in Ogoniland where mangrove forests were devastated by oil.

PICTURES OF THE MONTH



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabby Makes Presentation to Rivers State Commissioner of Police, Tunji Disu



SSA to President, Tinubu, Hon. Gift Johnbull Poses with HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabby



Some Panelists at a Round Table Meeting with Presidential Aide on Community Engagement, Hon. Gift Johnbull



Cross Section of Ogoni Elites at a HYPREP Stakeholders Briefing



Prof. Zabby Educating Students on Importance of a Pollution Free Mangrove Ecosystem



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabby at 50



HYPREP Staff Celebrate with Prof. Zabby at 50



HYPREP Staff Celebrate with Prof. Zabby at 50

Shun Illegal Oil Bunkering/Refining It Destroys The Environment

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AMANGROVE'S PLEA

By: Kpoobari Nafo

Don't cut me down, instead prune my branches.
A cut will kill me, a prune will rejuvenate my being.
Remember O coastal dweller that I ward off tsunami from you,
My roots a maternity they provide for fish
And your walls and roof on my stem they stand and sit.
All year-round I support your cooking in power and content.
I sip off carbon from your air
And in my benevolence release oxygen to you.
Not convinced?
Do you still want to cut me down?
Don't you appreciate the necklace of pure green
That I deck your shore with and make it an attraction
So that its beauty is seen even from the sky.
I have even gone ahead to secure credit facilities for you
In a carbon to oxygen deal at the United Nations.
Just the other day I revealed myself to your scientists
That my leaves and bark can cure your ailments.
Your dainties – fish, animals, birds are nurtured in my garden.
So kind I am that at every ebb I open my store to you.
Heed my plea and let me live and you too will live.

THE ENVIRONMENT ON MARBLE

“Trees are humanity's greatest ally in the fight against climate change.”

– Leo DiCaprio



Photo:HYPREP

... for a cleaner and greener Ogoniland

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